

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 04291 281315Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SCI-06 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 281243Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2070

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NL

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

1. USUALLY WELL INFORMED LEFT WING DAILY VOLKSKRANT REPORTS SEPT 28 PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL MAY BE THINKING OF GETTING RID OF MINISTER OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, IRENE VORRINK. THERE IS REPORTEDLY DISSATISFACTION WITH MRS. VORRINK'S PERFORMANCE EVEN IN HER OWN LABOR PARTY. IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED SHE HAS NOT BEEN EQUAL TO HER RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE MINISTRY AND HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PRESENT MINISTRY'S CASE EFFECTIVELY IN THE PARLIAMENT.

2. COMMENT: REPORT CONFIRMS WHAT EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN TOLD BY SOME OFFICIALS AT BOTH MFA AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT. THEY MAKE NO EFFORT TO CONCEAL THEIR LOW OPINION MRS. VORRINK'S CAPABILITIES. MRS. VORRINK HOWEVER IS AN MEMBER OF LABOR PARTY'S NEW LEFT, DAUGHTER OF ONE OF LABOR PARTY'S PATRIARCHS, AND ONLY WOMEN IN CABINET. PM DEN UYL COULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO REMOVE HER IF HE REALLY INTENDS TO. THUS VOLKSKRANT STORY MAY MERELY BE TRIAL BALLOON OR EFFORT TO MAKE HER "SHAPE UP".

3. EMBASSY RELATIONSHIP WITH VORRINK HAS BEEN NEITHER WARM NOR FRUITFUL. SHE MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO HIDE HER BIAS AGAINST BIG

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PAGE 02 THE HA 04291 281315Z

BUSINESS, PARTICULARLY AMERICAN, WHICH IS OSTENSIBLY BASED ON

ECOLOGICAL GROUNDS BUT PROBABLY REFLECTS DEEPER ATTITUDE OF ANTI-AMERICANIS. HER UNWILLINGNESS THUS FAR TO SCHEDULE COURTESY CALL BY CHARGE MAY BE FURTHER INDICATION OF THIS ATTITUDE.
TANGUY

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